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TRANSFORMERS

THE WAR WITHIN

3
DEC

\$2.95
US



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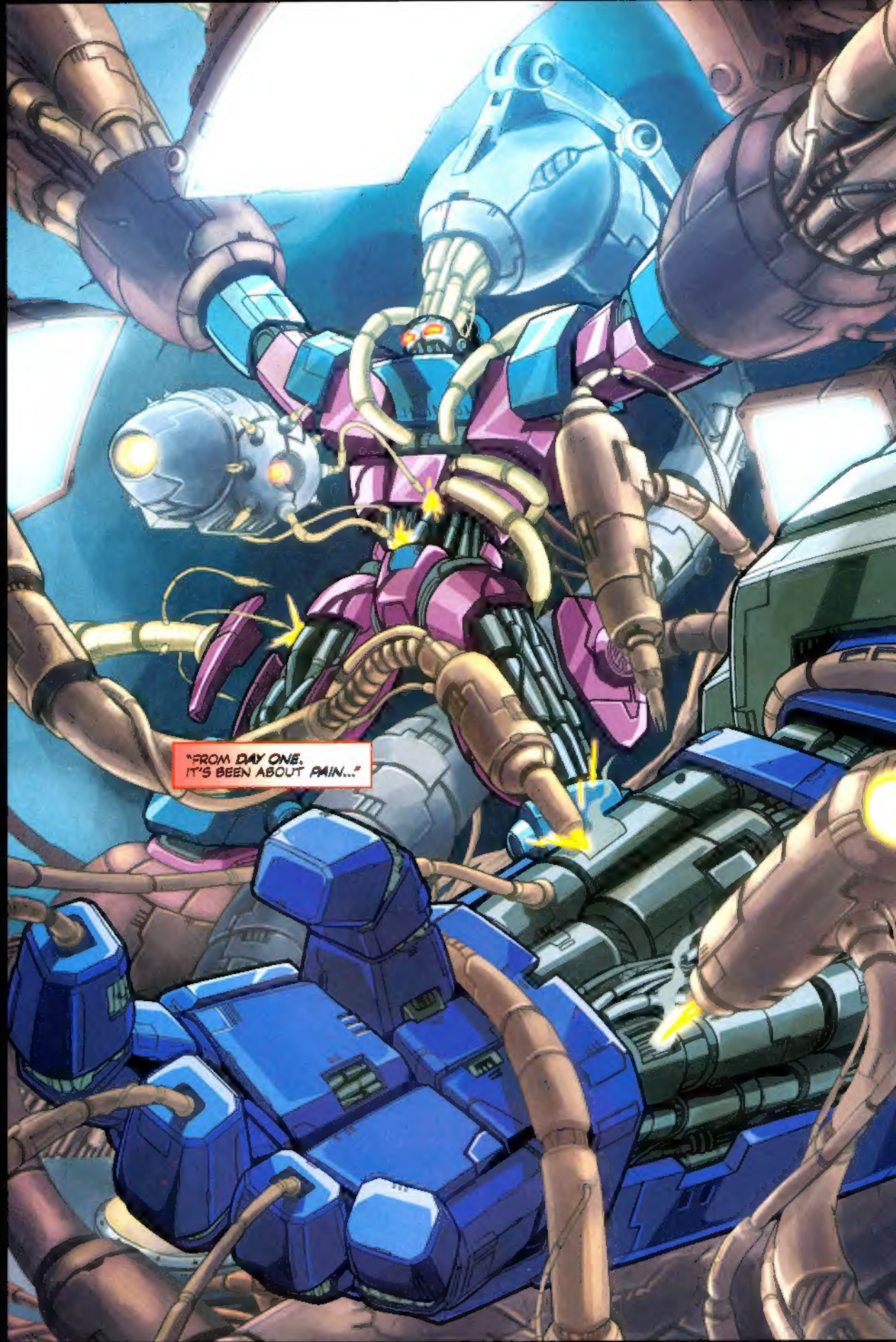
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"FROM DAY ONE,
IT'S BEEN ABOUT PAIN..."

CYBERTRON, ORBITAL
TORUS STATE: PROTIHEX.

A.K.A. SECTOR
SIX-ZERO.

NOT
INSURGENCE,
NOT CONQUEST,
NOT TERROR.
JUST PAIN.

IT'S MEGATRON'S
WAY OF CONTROLLING US.
THE ARENA, THE FORGE, THE
BRANDING PIT... WE'VE BEEN
GRADUALLY CONDITIONED,
TEMPERED. WE INFLECT PAIN, WE
TAKE IT. NO QUESTIONS. IT'S
WHAT IT IS TO BE A
DECEPTICON.

LIKE NOW,
THE THREE OF US,
DEEP IN AUTOBOT
TERRITORY, WITH
ORDERS TO SECURE
A HEAVILY FORTIFIED
COMMAND POST.

IT WAS AN
EXERCISE IN PAIN
MANAGEMENT
FROM THE GET-GO!
AM I RIGHT,
SKYWARP?

STARScream...

...WILL YOU
SHUT UP!

YOU COULDN'T
RESIST BAITING
HIM, COULDN'T JUST
GET THE JOB DONE
QUICKLY AND
CLEANLY.

IF I HADN'T
"WARPED" US OUT
OF THERE, WE'D ALL
BE TINY BITS OF
WAR FLOTSAM.

WE FAILED
BECAUSE YOU TOLD
GRIMLOCK EXACTLY
WHERE WE WERE
GOING AND WHAT WE
WERE DOING!

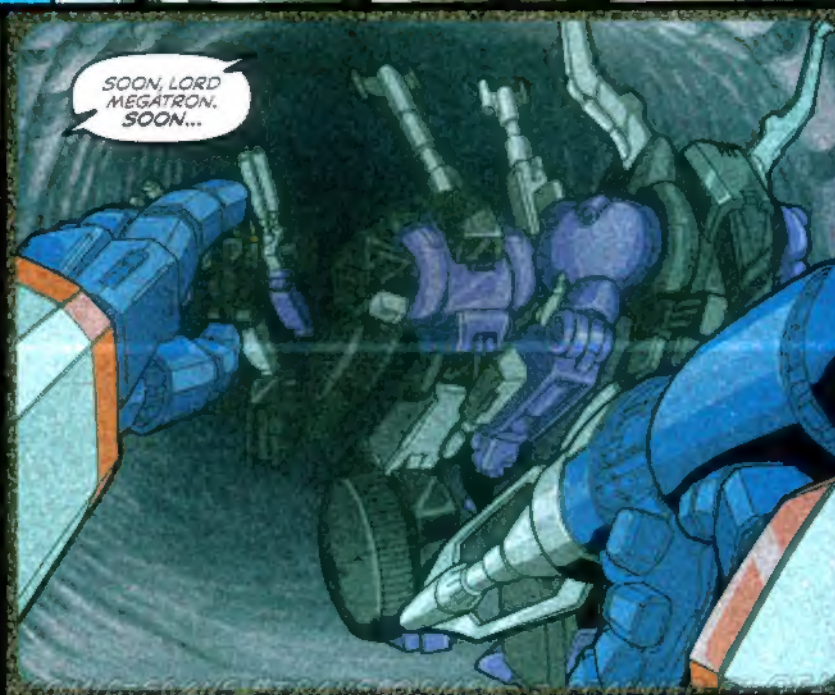
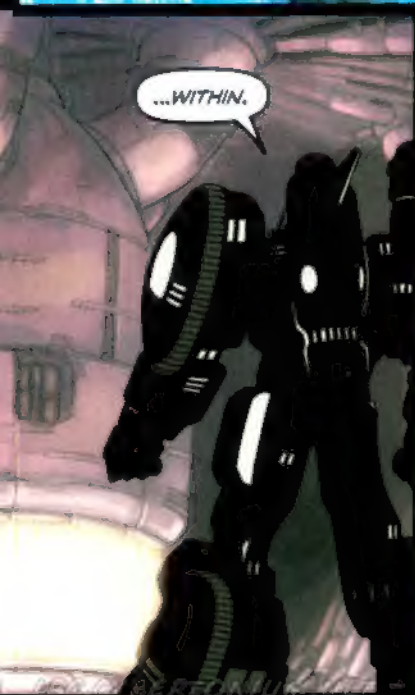
C'MON,
THUNDER-
CRACKER...

LET'S GET
BACK TO
KOLKULAR. BEFORE
THIS LOSER DRAGS
US DOWN WITH
HIM.

YOU KNOW
WHAT I THINK,
STARScream?

I THINK MAYBE
YOU'VE GROWN A
LITTLE TOO FOND
OF THE PAIN!

BELOW:



"...RAVAGE HAS THE SCENT!"

THIS PLACE...
I HAD NO IDEA, NO
CONCEPTION, IACON,
THE SURFACE WAR,
DOWN HERE...

...IT ALL
SEEMS VERY
DISTANT!

W-WHAT?!

YOU ARE
NOT
ALONE.

YOU ARE A PART
OF SOMETHING FAR
GREATER THAN YOU
REALIZE, OPTIMUS
PRIME.

I THINK...

...THAT FALL
DID MORE
DAMAGE THAN
I REALIZED.

HERE, WITHIN
CYBERTRON, WE
HAVE A VOICE. ASK
YOURSELF, WHY DID
YOU COME DOWN
HERE? ALONE?

WELL, I... DID
NOT WISH TO SEND
ANY MORE AUTOBOTS
TO THEIR DEATH. THE
EXPLOSION, MEGATRON, I...

YOU CAME
BECAUSE WITHIN YOU
THERE IS A NEED, TO
UNDERSTAND, TO GRASP
THE MEANING, AND
IMPORT OF THIS WORLD
BEFORE YOU GIVE
IT UP.

WE ARE YOU. WE
ARE THOSE WHO CAME
BEFORE, SEEKING THE
SAME ANSWERS.

SO... I'M TALKING
TO MYSELF.
RIGHT?

IF YOU REALLY ARE THIS KIND
OF INNER VOICE, DO YOU
HAVE ANY WORDS OF
WISDOM?

JUST
TWO...



...BEHIND
YOU!

HUB CAPITAL, IACON:

THE BORDER REIGNS:

NO MERCY, NO
QUARTER. ERADICATE
THEM ALL.

I, SHOCKWAVE,
CLAIM IACON IN THE
NAME OF MEGATRON
AND THE
DECEPTICONS!

IACON, THE HIGH COUNCIL AVALLONS:

BORDER DEFENSES ARE BEING OVERRUN. THEY'RE COMING AT US FROM ALL SIDES.

THE DECAAGON:

I HEAR YOU, **TRACKS**. ALL UNIT COMMANDERS, FALL BACK TO SUB-PERIMETER SIX, AND PREPARE TO DETONATE MINES ON MY SIGNAL.

POSITIVE I.D. ON YOUR PURSUER, **POWERGLIDE**. TARGET HIS LATERAL FUEL LINE. PLATING IS WEAKEST THERE.

RE-ROUTE GRID SEVENTY-SIX. I WANT THAT ENERGY WEB AT **MAXIMUM** OUTPUT.

PREPARE TO RAISE TURRETS NINETEEN-BRAVO THROUGH FORTY-FIVE ECHO.

IS IT ME, OR IS THIS A REALLY **STUPID** MOVE ON THE PART OF THE DECEPTICONS?

I MEAN, WHY CONCENTRATE THE ATTACK **HERE**, WHERE WE'RE AT OUR STRONGEST?

WHAT? THEN RUN A BYPASS.

IT IS STRANGE, **JAZZ**, AND A LITTLE TOO COINCIDENTAL FOR MY LIKING. FIRST THE DISASTER AT THE **FORUM OF ENLIGHTENMENT**, THEN PRIME GOES OFF ON HIS OWN.

I HAVE A BAD FEELING IT'S ALL CONNECTED!



BELOW

HN-AH!

GMM-

AAAA!

GONE--

UNTIL HIS FRIENDS GET HERE AT LEAST.

ABOVE:

MEGATRON...
WHAT **EXACTLY** ARE
YOU UP TO?

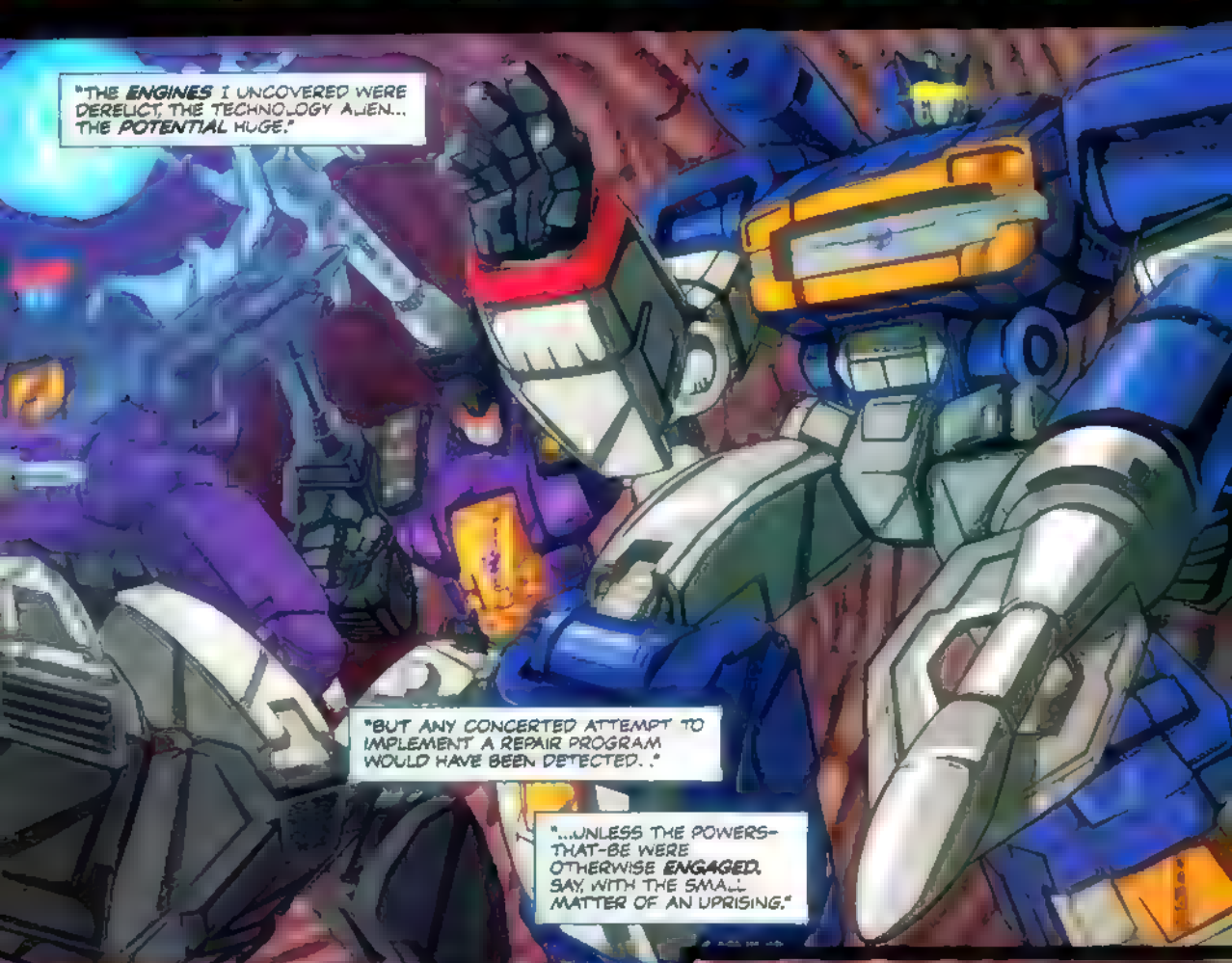
FIRST, YOU
SEND ME OUT ON
SOME **POINTLESS**
MISSION, THEN I COME
BACK TO FIND WE'RE
TRYING TO TAKE
IACON.

WHICH, BY THE
WAY, WE DECIDED A
WHILE BACK WAS A
TACTICAL **NO-NO**.

CALL ME
PARANOID, BUT
I KINDA GET THE
IMPRESSION YOU'RE
CUTTING ME OUT OF
THE LOOP HERE.

LONG AGO,
BEFORE ALL THIS..
I SAW ANOTHER SIDE
TO CYBERTRON.

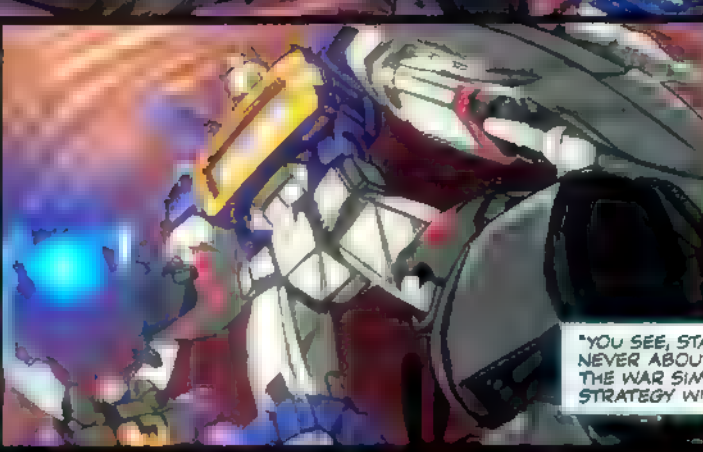
...THOUGH ITS
ORIGINS ARE LOST
IN THE PAST, CLEARLY
THIS PLANET WAS
ONCE **MOBILE**: A
LIVING STARSHIP.




"THE **ENGINES** I UNCOVERED WERE DERELICT, THE TECHNOLOGY ALIEN... THE **POTENTIAL** HUGE."

"BUT ANY CONCERTED ATTEMPT TO IMPLEMENT A REPAIR PROGRAM WOULD HAVE BEEN DETECTED. ."


"...UNLESS THE POWERS-THAT-BE WERE OTHERWISE **ENGAGED**. SAY, WITH THE SMALL MATTER OF AN UPRISING."



"YOU SEE, STARScream, IT WAS NEVER ABOUT THE CONQUEST, THE WAR SIMPLY **MASKED** THE STRATEGY WITHIN..."



"...IN THE SAME WAY THAT THE ATTACK ON IACON SERVES TO LEAVE OPTIMUS PRIME EXPOSED. **ISOLATED**."



"AND WHILE THE WAR RAGED AND THE ENGINES, WERE RE-TOOLED, A MECHAFORMING SUB-STRUCTURE WAS INTRODUCED."



"UNTIL, ULTIMATELY, CYBERTRON ITSELF WILL TRANSFORM... INTO A WAR WORLD."


"ONLY ONE ELEMENT REMAINS TO BE ACQUIRED, AN ENERGY SOURCE POTENT ENOUGH TO POWER THIS COSMIC DREADNAUT."



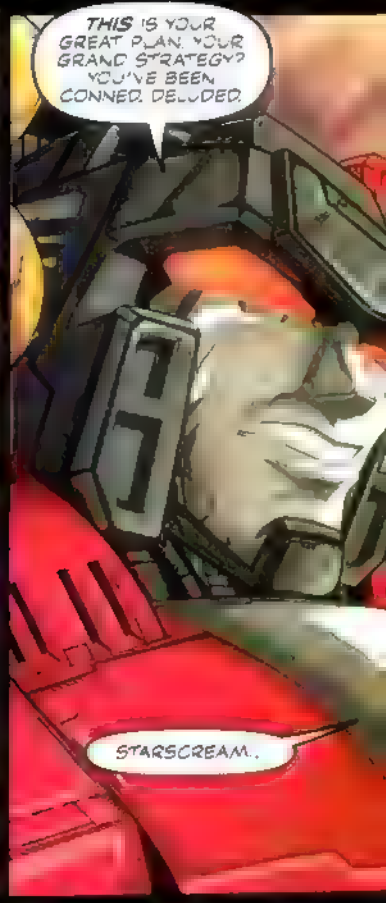
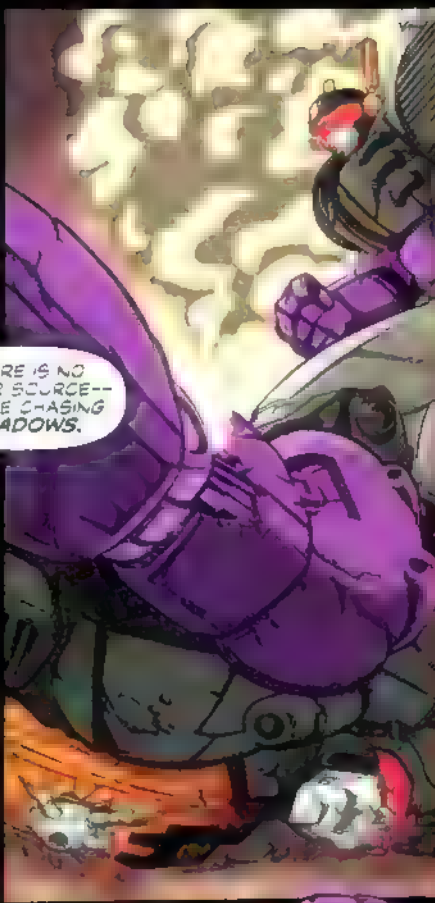
THE MATRIX.

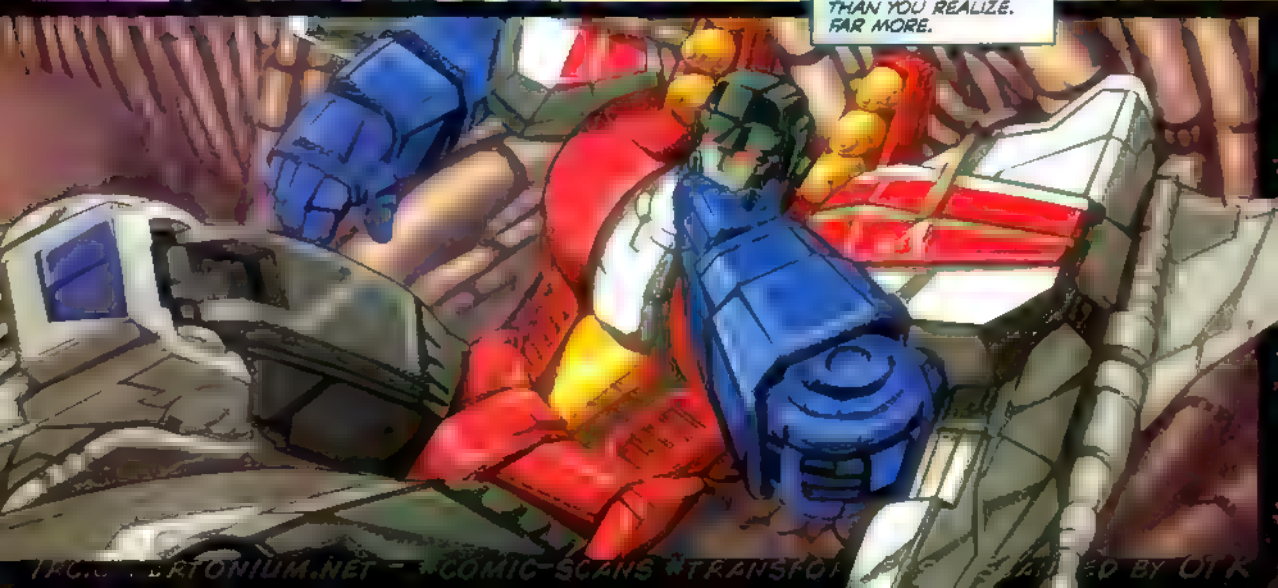
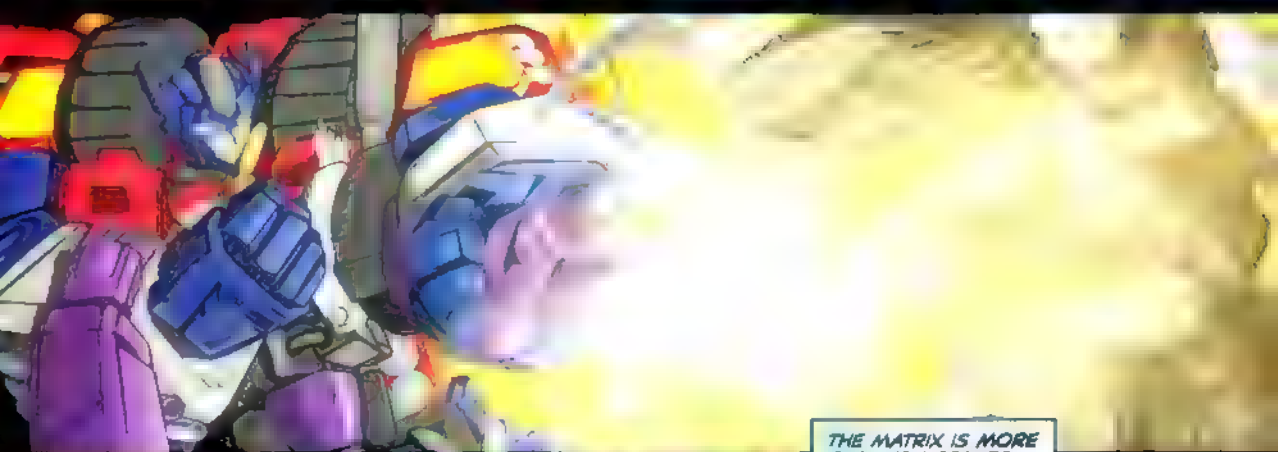
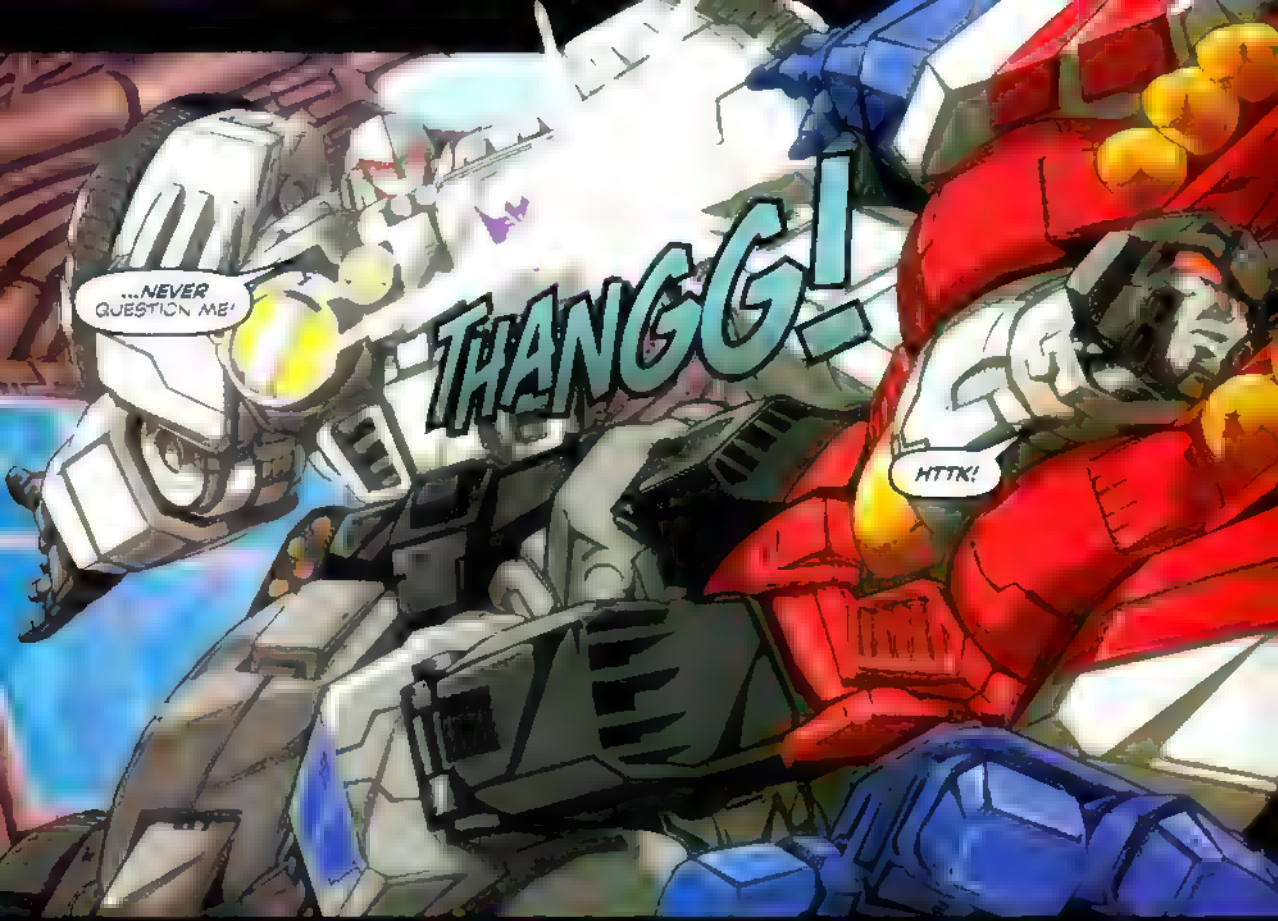


THE...
MATRIX.



A-HA- HA-HA.
HH. AH-HA-HA-HA.







LORD MEGATRON,
THE PRIME--



EH?
SOUNDWAVE..

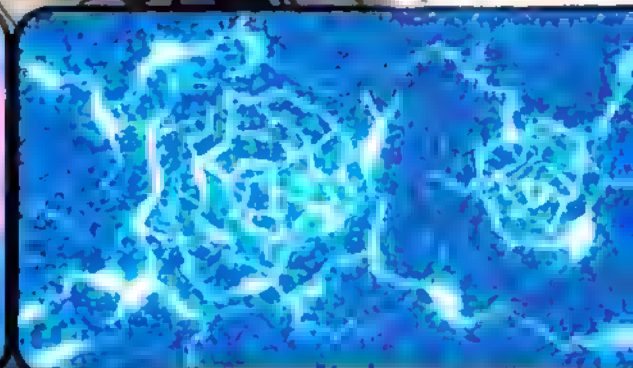


UH??!

MEGATRON-- IF YOU
HAVE SOMETHING TO
SAY TO ME..



SAY IT
IN PERSON--
CRZZK!



O-- DEAR,
THINGS ARE NOT
GOING TO BE
PLAN..



DO NOT TEST ME,
STARScream.

I MAY NOT BE
SO BENEVOLENT
NEXT TIME.

ORBITAL TORUS
STATE, URAYA:

GRIMLOCK, YOU
COPY? THIS IS PROWL,
AT COMMAND ONE.

COPY. INBOUND
TO JACON, E.T.A.
THREE--

NEGATIVE. REPEAT.
NEGATIVE. STAY AWAY,
GRIMLOCK. I'VE GIVEN A
BLANKET CEASE AND
DESIST ORDER TO ALL
OUTLYING FORCES.

WHAT?

YOU UNDER
SEIGE? NEED
REINFORCEMENTS?

NEGATIVE. THE
DECEPTICONS HAVE
MADE A TACTICAL
ERROR. THEIR FIRST BY
CONCENTRATING THE
ATTACK HERE THEY'VE GIVEN
US A CHANCE TO REGROUP
AND CONSOLIDATE
ELSEWHERE.

AS FOR YOU,
GRIMLOCK, I'VE GOT A
SPECIAL MISSION FOR
YOU AND THAT LITTLE
GROUP OF YOURS.

.. AND YOU'RE
NOT GOING TO
LIKE IT!

BELOW:

THIS PLACE IS
A LABYRINTH.
TUNNELS WITHIN
TUNNELS CLOAKED
ACCESSWAYS DEPTHS
NOT PLUMBED.

AND YET I SEEM
ABLE TO NAVIGATE
WITH UNCANNY EASE.
A KIND OF PRIMAL
AWARENESS,
PERHAPS...

YOU TOO I'M
GUESSING NOW
WHY DO YOU
THINK THAT IS...

...MEGATRON?

YOU HAVE
SOMETHING
I WANT



THE MATRIX, YES.
I NEVER KNEW. UNTIL
NOW. DOWN HERE I CAN
FEEL IT-- LIKE A LIVING
PRESENCE, A VOICE
FROM PRE-HISTORY.

YOU REALIZE
I CAN NEVER
LET YOU POSSESS
IT. I WILL DIE
FIRST.

THAT'S CLOSE
ENOUGH. BETTER
TREAD CAREFULLY,
MEGATRON.. IT'S A
LONG WAY
DOWN.

ROOM!

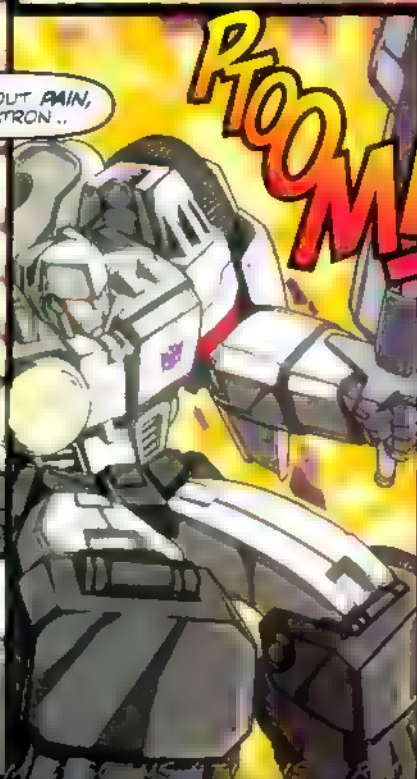
UHN!
MEGATRON,
ARE YOU
INSANE?



YOU'LL KILL
US BOTH!

NO, I..
STARSCREAMP!

IT'S ABOUT PAIN,
MEGATRON..



ROOM!



NO!

TO BE
CONTINUED...

...HERE'S A WHOLE
WORLD OF IT!

**(TOP) THE WAR WITHIN # 1 COVER POSTER**

Before ARMADA... before the BEAST WARS... before even GENERATION 1... there was THE WAR WITHIN. The spectacular pencils by series artist Don Figueroa are only enhanced by the digital painting of colorist Alan Wang in this posterized version of the War Within #1 wrap-around cover. Join the battle, as a new TRANSFORMERS history is forged!

**(LEFT) ARMADA # 8 COVER POSTER**

Fans of evil, be on the lookout for this ominous new TRANSFORMERS Armada poster! Featured this time is MEGATRON, leader of the DECEPTICONS, as he contemplates the power of the ultimate MINI-CON weapon: the STAR SABER! Penciled by Pat Lee, inked by Rob Armstrong, and colored by Gary Yeung!

FEBRUARY 2002



Writer **Simon Furman** (now ongoing writer for Armada) and hot new talent **Guido Guidi** kick off a whole new Armada story arc! Everything changes for the Earthbound MINI-CONS when a mysterious object makes planet-fall. Its siren call is answered by across the world, a summoning that draws the MINI-CONS to a fateful rendezvous. But does the gathering spell the end of the AUTOBOT/DECEPTICON war... or simply the beginning of a terrifying new ordeal?

SIMON FURMAN GUIDO GUIDI



ISSUE 8

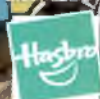
FEBRUARY 2003

TRANSFORMERS PROFILE BOOK II
FEBRUARY 2003

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SOON...



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